

Unmanned level crossings in Karnataka

4688. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of unmanned level crossings in Karnataka; and

(b) what steps have been taken to prevent accidental deaths on these crossings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) There are 947 unmanned level crossings in Karnataka. Railway Zone-wise details are as under:

Railways	Number of unmanned level crossings
Central	02
Southern	581
South Central	364

(b) The important steps taken by the Government to prevent accidents at unmanned level crossings are listed below:

1. On the road approaches, "Stop Boards" are provided on either side of the level crossings at suitable points within the railway boundary to warn the road users.

2. Speed breakers/rumble strips have been provided on road approaches to level crossing so that road vehicle drivers reduce their speed.

3. Whistle Board are provided on rail approach to level crossings for train drivers to whistle from the whistle Board till such time as the train passes the level crossing gate.

4. Education of road drivers about safety at unmanned level crossings by publicity campaigns through media like

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quickies on TV, Cinema slides, posters, talks on radio, newspaper advertisements and street plays.

5. Chief Secretaries of States have been requested to help in educating road users about safety precautions at level crossings and for exercising strict checks while issuing driving licences.

6. Joint Ambush Checks with civil authorities are conducted to nab errant road vehicle drivers under the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Railways Act, 1989.

7. Involvement of village Panchayats in the railways public awareness programmes.

8. Putting up level crossing safety posters at Village Panchayat Offices and at retail petrol pumps.

9. The unmanned level crossings are progressively being manned in a phased manner. Although the initial cost of manning of unmanned Level Crossings, has to be borne by the Road authority concerned and annual operating & maintenance cost is to be borne by the Railway, considering the serious consequences of the accidents at unmanned Level Crossings, Railway has decided to man 4449 hazardous level crossings at its own cost in a period of 5 years.

Railways have also decided to man equal number of Level Crossing at its own cost as are manned through funds from MPLADS as per the recommendations of Hon'ble MPs.

Increasing train accidents

**†4689. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:
SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that train accidents are constantly on the increase;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.